

FEB 946

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	China	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1A
SUBJECT	Chinese Communist Highway Construction, Szechuan	DATE DISTR.	1 September 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/> 25X1C	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	

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SOURCE: 25X1X

1. On 1 April 1953, 12,000 men of the Chinese Communist 61 Army, based in the Sikang-Szechuan border area, were assigned to the construction of the Hsuehch'eng (5641/1004) - Shanchiaopa (1472/6037/1100) section of the Ch'engt'u (N 30-40, E 104-04) - Apa (N 32- , E 102-) highway. Prior to this transfer 6,000 civilian laborers had been employed on the construction. This section of the highway, which is 220 kilometers in length, was to be opened to traffic before the end of 1954.
2. The Ch'engt'u - Apa highway, excluding the Ch'engt'u - Kuanghsien (N 31-00, E 103-37) section, is 526 kilometers in length. The highway construction began in March 1951 and by April 1952 the Kuanghsien - Wench'uan (N 31-21, E 103-33) section had been completed. In March 1953 the Wench'uan - Lifan (N 31-32, E 103-23) section was opened to traffic. In early May 1953 the Lifan - Matang (N 31-51, E 102-40) section was under construction and scheduled for completion by the end of 1953. The construction of the Mat'ang - Apa section was to begin in 1954.
3. The highway was planned by the Soviet expert, Pi-te-pu-lo-fu (1764/1779/0592/5012/1133). The road was to be built of alternate layers of large and crushed stones for high load capacity, durability, and resistance to rain.
4. The highway will provide an alternate communication link between the southwest and the northwest areas, and will serve the following purposes:
 - a. Expedite the supply of arms and food stuffs to the northeast.
 - b. Permit large scale lumber shipments to the northwest for capital construction programs.

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- c. Strengthen security controls in the Szechuan, Sikang, Tsinghai, and Kansu border areas.
- d. Provide access to western Szechuan for survey and exploiting of mines in that area.
- e. Assist in consolidating economic and political control over minority nationalities in these areas.

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